Budget Message

During FY 03/04 and FY 04/05 the Department of Public Works will continue our mission of serving the community to improve the quality of life. As a 24-hour/7-day service provider and emergency responder, the Department touches our citizens on a daily basis, keeping transportation and stormwater systems safe and operating efficiently.

Operations/Stormwater Division Road continuing the Alternative Surface Program for designated unpaved roads during FY 03/04. The Division is currently managing the Design/ROW/ Construction of 15 State-funded surface water improvement projects. The Division continues to address sidewalk deficiency repair, tree trimming initiatives, landscape maintenance, and street sweeping. Maintenance of existing roads will continue to be a focal point for the Division, including 3 million dollars for asphalt pavement preservation in FY 03/04. Unfortunately, available resources during this two-year budget cycle are insufficient to sustain a corresponding stormwater capital improvement program to address drainage system deficiencies and/or neighborhood flooding projects.

The extensive volunteer network, including LakeWatch and WAV (Watershed Action Volunteers), continues its efforts in public education, storm drain stenciling and other water quality initiatives into the community. The EPA Impact Grant for the Watershed Atlas is enhancing our educational outreach to Seminole County Schools, grades 5 thru 12.

In July 2001, we began a 5-year process with FDEP and other stakeholders to develop Total Maximum Daily Load limits for impaired waters in Seminole County. The verified list of impaired waters were identified by the end of FY 02/03.

The Engineering Division Special Projects Section (Trails Program) will initiate design of a segment of the Cross Seminole Trail Connector (2.5 miles), construction of the Seminole Wekiva Trail Markham Trailhead, and the Seminole Wekiva Trail SR-434 Overpass (Altamonte Springs) project. Projects scheduled over the next two fiscal years include: Construction of 13.5 miles of paved and 18.1 miles of unpaved trails and the design of 2.7 miles of paved trails.

The Sidewalk Program, funded by the 2001 Sales Tax, will construct approximately 50 miles of sidewalk along the collector/ arterial roadways and approximately 40 miles of sidewalk along local roadways. All road projects to be funded from the 1991 Sales Tax have been completed or are under development. Current projects under construction are County Road 427, County Road 419, Dodd Road and East Lake Mary Boulevard. Future construction includes a portion of County Road 46A, County Road 15, Airport Boulevard, Chapman Road, Sand Lake Road, Wymore Road, Eden Park and Bunnell Roads.

The **Traffic Engineering Division** will continue their ongoing efforts in the implementation of the County Advanced Traffic Management System during FY03/04. This system will deploy components of an Intelligent Transportation System that will create a common communication platform with neighboring agencies. Through this collaborative effort, the citizens of Central Florida will be provided real time traffic information. To help reach this goal, a coordinator will be placed in the 9-1-1 center to operate the system and work closely with emergency responders.

During this two-year budget cycle, over 20 miles of fiber optic communications lines will be added to the current network. Traffic maintenance activities related to construction projects will continue to be redirected to lessen the impact of construction activities on motorists.

Looking ahead, Public Works will allocate our resources creatively to combine fiscal responsibility with fulfilling the needs of the community. Balancing the continuity of current operational programs with the growing need for capital investment in an aging infrastructure will continue to be our greatest challenge. Most importantly, we will reinforce our commitment to maximizing service delivery which is critical to serving the community and improving the quality of life for the citizens of Seminole County.